

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 13TH DECEMBER 2004
LEISURE AND ARTS SERVICES COMMITTEE - 20TH DECEMBER 2004

REPORT ON: CULTURAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS

REPORT NO.: 805-2004

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the co-funding of the creation of a dedicated service for the support of individuals from the cultural industries to set themselves up in business.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to co-fund this project for three years with a mixture of accommodation costs and a cash contribution to a maximum of £25,000 over the period of the project.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The accommodation costs, estimated at a value of £7,200 over the three years of the project, will be met by the Leisure and Arts Department by making an office available at DCA for the period of the project at no cost to the project.

3.2 The remainder of the costs, £18,800, will be accommodated within the revenue allocation for the Economic Development Department within the mainstream budget over the three years of the project.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The cultural enterprise office will operate under the umbrella of The Business Gateway. The Council funds the Gateway and that organisation operates with an equal opportunities policy that has been agreed with the City Council.

6 REPORT

6.1 The City Council has been asked to assist with the funding of a cultural enterprise office in the City under the umbrella of the Business Gateway. The Council currently co-funds the core activities of the Business Gateway. Clients from the cultural industries typically require intensive, one to one, help to establish themselves as micro businesses. The current volume of activity at the Gateway has meant that it has proved difficult for the Gateway to provide such intensive help to clients. The types of business most likely to benefit include performance, visual arts, crafts, writing and publishing though this is not an exhaustive list.

6.2 This concept has been piloted in Glasgow since 2002 and has resulted in the creation of 167 new businesses in the sector. In addition the project assisted 113 existing businesses. The current proposal for Dundee is to make a business adviser available within the City on a half time basis for the next three years. The total cost for this is estimated as £162,500 over the three years. It is proposed that this is met from the Scottish Arts Council (£25,000), Scottish Enterprise (£44,500), European Social Fund (£68,000) and Dundee City Council (£25,000). The budget for the project is shown below.

6.3 Cultural Enterprise Office – Project costs

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Total</u>
Adviser	17072	17755	18465	53292
Project Support Staff	12352	12846	13360	38558
Equipment Property, Travel etc	21206	17905	19716	58828
Project Fees	3420	4086	4299	11805
Totals	54050	52592	55840	162482

6.4 The Director of Leisure and Arts has indicated that space at Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA) can be made available and confirms that DCA is the most appropriate location for this service given the user profile of the building. Leisure and Arts are prepared to make a private office available to the project for the three years that funding is agreed.

6.5 The project will be seek to link its clients into the services of the Gateway wherever possible and will operate under its umbrella including reporting through the main Gateway Board on which the Council is represented.

6.6 The project fits within the Policy framework of the current Economic Development Strategy and Plan. This is particularly so in relation to policies on the development of the cultural quarter, the promotion of initiatives to promote the creative sector, the promotion of self employment and the need to proceed in partnership.

7 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 6TH DECEMBER 2004